



# Examining Board Of Psychology Meeting Minutes

**October 28, 2005**

**Antioch University**

**2326 Sixth Avenue Rm #100**

**Seattle, WA**

## *Board Members Present:*

Doug Uhl, Psy.D, Chair; Ray Harry, Public Member, Vice-Chair; Dean Funabiki, Ph.D.; Benjamin Johnson, Psy.D.; Carol Pahlke, Ph.D.; Laing Tien, Psy.D.; Jorge Torres-Saenz, Psy.D.;

*Board Members Absent:* Tom Wall, Ph.D.

*Public Present:* Lucy Homans, Ed.D., Washington State Psychological Association Liaison

*Staff Present:* Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director; Janice K. Boden, Program Manager; Sherry Wolverton, Program Representative; Tammy Benson, Case Management Manager

## Agenda Topics

### Open Session

1. Call to Order – The Board reviewed and approved today's meeting agenda and the September 2005 meeting minutes as written.
2. Executive Director and Program Manager Reports  
Memorandum from Secretary Selecky to Department of Health. – Mr. Nicoloff presented Secretary Selecky's memorandum regarding patient safety, disciplinary priorities and sanctions. Secretary Selecky's memorandum directs DOH staff to address several areas including:
  - The highest priority should be given to cases involving serious physical injury or death to a patient, and sexual contact with or abuse of a patient.
  - Increase management oversight and review of cases involving sexual contact or abuse of a patient, serious physical injury or patient death. Management scrutiny must occur at each point of case decision making.
  - Sanctions imposed for unprofessional conduct must reflect the severity of that conduct and the risk to the public. Probation, stayed suspensions and continuing education requirements should not be used to allow a provider who has engaged in serious misconduct to remain in practice.

- Any doubts about a provider's ability to practice safely must be resolved in favor of protecting the public.

There was discussion regarding this memorandum including efforts to standardize processes and sanctions across professions. Dr. Uhl stated that the Board has always taken sexual misconduct very seriously and that data shows mandatory sanctions lock boards into certain actions and removes the flexibility that is needed to appropriately address individual cases. Dr. Lucy Homans, Washington Psychology Association liaison to the Board stated this discussion should be linked to cost discussions.

3. Discussion of Expenditures and Cost Containment Measures – The Board discussed Investigative and Legal Services expenditures with DOH staff Karl Hoehn, Legal Services Manager and Dave Magby, Chief Investigator. Mr. Hoehn talked about the statutes and laws and about structural problems with the laws. He indicated that the Department may request legislation in the upcoming session to address these problems. Proposed legislation would focus on the Uniform Disciplinary Act – not on individual professions. Mr. Hoehn and Mr. Magby spoke about the recent reorganization of their respective units within the Department; workload issues; triage of cases. The Board expressed concern about the length of time it takes to investigate cases and asked if more dollars/allotment could be shifted to the investigative process to reduce caseloads and timeframes. Mr. Magby responded by saying that more investigators would reduce timeframes, but that it is difficult to tell what might impact timeframes. He stated that each licensee/respondent is owed a due process and our protocols include that due process in the timeframes we are guided by. Mr. Magby recommended that the Board assign the reviewing board member prior to investigating cases. That will give the investigator an individual contact from the beginning of the investigative process. Dr. Tien asked how the Board could impact the number of investigators and staff attorneys so that cases are processed more quickly and stated that if there is new legislation on these issues, that increased staffing should be authorized as well. Dr. Tien also offered the Board's time and expertise to provide training to DOH staff on professional boundaries. Both Mr. Magby and Mr. Hoehn welcomed that opportunity.

#### 4. Reports

Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards October 2005 Conference – Dr. Tien and Dr. Torres reported on their attendance and presentation at this recent conference. Highlights of the conference included a panel presentation and discussion of the experience requirement needed for licensure. Dr. Torres and Dr. Tien were panel members and spoke about recent legislation in Washington that removed the distinction between pre-and post-doctoral experience. Both board members were very pleased with the audience's response to the panel and said that while other jurisdictions representatives were initially skeptical, by the time the presentation was over they congratulated Washington's Board for its new approach to the experience requirement. Dr. Torres gave a special thank you to Dr. Tien for her participation.

Governor Gregoire's Health Care Summit –The Governor's Health Care Summit offered attendees an opportunity to hear the Governor's vision for how health care should be delivered, and afforded everyone an opportunity to recommend new ideas and new ways to structure our system so that it provides the best quality of care and provides access to all of the people of the state. Mr. Harry reported on his attendance at this important meeting and suggested that board members visit Governor Gregoire's web site for more information. The address is <http://governor.wa.gov/healthcaresummit/default.htm> .

5. Public Comment - Dr. Homans expressed Washington State Psychological Association's frustration because of how long it is taking to adopt rules to implement the *Barriers Bill* legislation.

6. 2003/2005 Strategic Plan & Committee Reports – The Board continued to work on its Strategic Plan. They revised the goals and objectives and agreed too come to the next meeting ready to identify committees and write goals statements.
7. Disciplinary Case Report - Tammy Benson, Program Manager reviewed the Case Status Report with the Board and responded to questions.

#### Closed Session

8. The Board met in closed session to assess complaints, make charging decisions (without using any identifying information) and to hold a completed case debriefing. Ms. Benson.
9. Written Jurisprudence Examination Item Development – The Board postponed work on the jurisprudence examination item bank until the next meeting.

The meeting ended at approximately 4:00 P.M. The next meeting is November 18, 2005 in Kent.